



NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE BG0000166
SITENAME Vrachanski Balkan

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code BG0000166	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Vrachanski Balkan

1.4 First Compilation date 2003-09	1.5 Update date 2021-11
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1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation:	Ministry of Environment and Water, "National Nature Protection Service" Directorate
Address:	Sofia Kn. Maria Luiza Blvd. 22 1000 Sofia
Email:	natura2000@moew.government.bg

1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

Date site classified as SPA:	0000-00
National legal reference of SPA designation	No data
Date site proposed as SCI:	2007-03
Date site confirmed as SCI:	2008-12
Date site designated as SAC:	2020-12
National legal reference of SAC designation:	Designation Order No. RD - 1031/17.12.2020 (promulgated SG 19 /2021) issued by the Minister of Environment and Water.
Explanation(s):	Adopted by Council of Ministers Decision No. 122/02.03.2007 (promulgated SG 21/2007). Issued by the Minister of Environment and Water designation Order No. RD - 1031/17.12.2020 (promulgated SG 19 /2021) with prohibitions and restrictions on activities contradicting the conservation objectives of the site.

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude

23.4608

Latitude

43.1708

2.2 Area [ha]:

36025.568

2.3 Marine area [%]

0.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name**NUTS level 2 code****Region Name**

BG31	Северозападен / Severozapaden
BG41	Югозападен / Yugozapaden
BG31	Северозападен / Severozapaden

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)Continental (78.2
%)Alpine (21.8
%)**3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION****3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them**[Back to top](#)

Annex I Habitat types						Site assessment			
Code	PF	NP	Cover [ha]	Cave [number]	Data quality	A B C D	A B C		
						Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Global
3150B			0.69		G	C	C	C	C
3260B			172.67000000000002		G	A	C	B	B
6110B			32.82		P	A	C	A	B
6210B			2280.55		M	A	B	A	A
6240B			18.24		G	A	C	A	B
6510B			19.32		G	A	C	A	B
6520B			1090.29		G	A	B	A	A
7220B			8.11		G	A	B	A	A
8120B			38.77		M	A	B	A	A
8210B			1606.2		M	A	A	A	A
8310B				600	G	A	B	A	A
9110B			109.01		G	A	C	A	B
9130B			519.14		M	A	C	B	B
9150B			1519.71		M	A	C	B	B
9170B			493.36		M	B	C	B	B
9180B			622.93		M	A	B	A	A
91CAB			0.21588			D			
91E0B			1.2		G	B	C	B	B
91G0B			1094.31		G	B	C	B	B
91H0B			104.15		M	C	C	C	C

91M0		678.19		M	B		C		B		B
91W0		490.28		M	A		C		A		B
91Z0		18.59		G	C		C		C		C
9530		0.44		G	D						

- **PF:** for the habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (6210, 7130, 9430) enter "X" in the column PF to indicate the priority form.
- **NP:** in case that a habitat type no longer exists in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Cover:** decimal values can be entered
- **Caves:** for habitat types 8310, 8330 (caves) enter the number of caves if estimated surface is not available.
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation)

3.2 Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and site evaluation for them

Species				Population in the site							Site assessment			
G	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	T	Size		Unit	Cat.	D. qual.	A B C D		A B C	
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
I	1093	Austropotamobius torrentium			p			i	C	M	C	A	C	A
M	1308	Barbastella barbastellus			p	302	558	i	C	M	C	B	C	C
F	1138	Barbus meridionalis			p	124885	124885	i	C	G	C	A	B	A
A	1193	Bombina variegata			p	27	27	localities	C	G	C	A	C	A
M	1352	Canis lupus			p	4	8	i	P	M	C	A	C	A
I	1088	Cerambyx cerdo			p				P	DD	C	C	C	C
F	1149	Cobitis taenia			p	7544	7544	i	R	G	C	A	C	C
R	1220	Emys orbicularis			p	2	2	localities	V	P	C	A	C	B
I	6199	Euplagia quadripunctaria			p	8826	13641	i	V	P	C	B	C	A
P	2327	Himantoglossum caprinum			p	600	1000	i		M	B	A	C	A
I	1083	Lucanus cervus			p	68594	134936	i	R	M	C	B	C	B
M	1355	Lutra lutra			p	4	5	i	C	G	C	A	C	A
I	1060	Lycaena dispar			p				R	DD	C	A	B	A
M	1310	Mniopterus schreibersii			r	3500	4500	i	C	G	B	B	C	B
M	1310	Mniopterus schreibersii			w	3000	4000	i	C	G	B	B	C	B
I	1089	Morimus funereus			p	302929	351864	i	R	M	C	B	C	B
M	1323	Myotis bechsteinii			p	312	625	i	C	M	C	B	C	B
M	1307	Myotis blythii			w	101	250	i	R	G	B	B	C	C
M	1307	Myotis blythii			r	1500	2500	i	R	G	B	B	C	C
M	1316	Myotis capaccinii			p	101	250	i	R	G	C	B	C	C
M	1321	Myotis emarginatus			p	51	100	i	R	G	C	B	C	C
M	1324	Myotis myotis			r	1500	2500	i	R	G	C	B	C	B
M	1324	Myotis myotis			w	101	250	i	R	G	B	B	C	C
I	1084	Osmoderma eremita			p				P	DD	C	B	C	B
I	4053	Paracaloptenus caloptenoides			p	2	2	localities	V	M	C	C	B	C
M	1306	Rhinolophus blasii			p	51	100	i	V	M	C	B	C	C

M	1305	Rhinolophus euryale			p	101	250	i	R	G	C	B	C	C
M	1304	Rhinolophus ferrumequinum			p	501	1000	i	C	G	B	B	C	C
M	1303	Rhinolophus hipposideros			p	251	500	i	C	G	C	B	C	C
M	1302	Rhinolophus mehelyi			p	101	250	i	V	M	C	B	C	C
F	5339	Rhodeus amarus			p				P	DD	D			
I	4026	Rhysodes sulcatus			p				P	DD	A	C	A	B
I	1087	Rosalia alpina			p	141645	257959	i	R	M	C	B	C	B
F	1146	Sabanejewia aurata			p	580252	580252	i	P	G	B	A	B	A
M	1335	Spermophilus citellus			p				P	DD	D			
R	1219	Testudo graeca			p	1	1	localities	V	P	C	A	B	A
R	1217	Testudo hermanni			p	25	25	localities	C	G	C	A	C	A
A	1166	Triturus cristatus			p	6	6	localities	R	M	A	B	A	A
A	1171	Triturus karelinii			p			localities	P	DD	C	A	C	A
I	1032	Unio crassus			p			i	R	M	C	B	C	B
M	2635	Vormela peregusna			p				P	DD	C	B	C	C

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Type:** p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see [reference portal](#))
- **Abundance categories (Cat.):** C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present - to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

3.3 Other important species of flora and fauna (optional)

Species					Population in the site				Motivation					
Group	CODE	Scientific Name	S	NP	Size		Unit	Cat.	Species Annex		Other categories			
					Min	Max		C R V P	IV	V	A	B	C	D
R		Ablepharus kitaibelii						R					X	
I		Acanthocyclops viridis						P						X
I		Acantholeria cineraria						P			X			
P		Acanthus balcanicus						C				X		
P		Acer campestre						C						X
P		Acer heldreichii						R				X		
P		Achillea clypeolata						C				X		
P		Achillea serbica						C				X		
I		Acnemia vrazzatica						P				X		
I		Agabus balcanicus						P				X		
F		Alburnoides bipunctatus						C				X		
I		Allolobophora biserialis						P				X		
P		Anacamptis pyramidalis						P					X	
P		Anemone narcissiflora						R			X			
P		Anemone sylvestris						P			X			

P	Cerastium bulgaricum						R			X			
P	Cerastium moesiacum						R				X		
M	Cervus elaphus						V					X	
P	Chamaecytisus calcareus						C				X		
P	Chamaecytisus glaber						C				X		
P	Chamaecytisus jankae						R			X			
P	Chamaecytisus kovacevii						R					X	
P	Chamaecytisus neicheffii						P				X		
M	Chionomys nivalis						P					X	
I	Chorthippus vagans						P			X			
I	Chthonius tenuis						P				X		
P	Cirsium candelabrum						C				X		
P	Cirsium heterotrichum						C				X		
P	Coeloglossum viride						R					X	
I	Coelotes jurinitschi						P				X		
R	Coluber caspius						R					X	
R	Coronella austriaca						R					X	
P	Crocus tommasinianus						R			X			
P	Crocus veluchensis						R				X		
P	Crucianella graeca						R				X		
P	Cyclamen hederifolium						P					X	
P	Dactylorhiza cordigera						R					X	
P	Dactylorhiza incarnata						R					X	
P	Dactylorhiza sambucina						R					X	
P	Daphne cneorum						R			X			
P	Daphne laureola						C			X			
P	Daphne oleoides						C			X			
P	Delphinium fissum						R						X
P	Dianthus petraeus						C				X		
P	Digitalis laevigata						P			X			
P	Digitalis viridiflora						R				X		
M	Dryomys nitedula						P					X	
I	Duvalis zivkovi						P				X		
I	Duvalius papasoffi						P				X		
I	Ecoptomera pallescens						P			X			
I	Ectrepesthoneura ledenikiensis						P				X		
R	Elaphe longissima						R					X	
I	Elaphoidella balcanica						P				X		
P	Epipactis helleborine						P					X	
M	Eptesicus serotinus						P					X	
P	Eryngium palmatum						R				X		
P	Erysimum comatum						R			X			
I	Eucera eucnemidea						P			X			
I	Euchole ausonia graeca						P				X		

I		Exechia furcata						P			X			
I		Exechia indecisa						P			X			
I		Exechia intersecta						P			X			
M		Felis silvestris						C			X			
P		Ferula heuffelii						P			X			
P		Festuca valida						R				X		
P		Festuca xanthina						P			X			
I		Formica rufa						P					X	
I		Fungivora ornata						P			X			
P		Galanthus elwesii						C					X	
P		Galanthus nivalis						R			X			
P		Galium rubioides						R			X			
P		Genista pilosa						P			X			
P		Genista subcapitata						R				X		
P		Gentianella praecox						R			X			
I		Geotrupes impermedius						P			X			
M		Glis glis						P					X	
I		Glomerus vodnatensis						P				X		
I		Gnathoncus nanuitinsis						P			X			
P		Gymnadenia conopsea						R					X	
I		Haplotaxis bureschi						P			X			
I		Helicella rhabdotoides						P				X		
I		Helicigona bureschi						P				X		
I		Helicigona trizona balcanica						P				X		
I		Hiplotaxis bureschi						P			X			
P		Huetia cynapioides						P			X			
A		Hyla arborea						R					X	
P		Hypericum boissieri						R			X			
P		Hypericum umbellatum						R				X		
M		Hypsugo savii						P					X	
P		Iris reichenbachii						R				X		
P		Iris variegata						C						X
I		Isophya miksici						P				X		
I		Jekelius punctulatus						P				X		
P		Juniperus sabina						R			X			
R		Lacerta viridis						R					X	
I		Lacinus ephippiatatus						P			X			
P		Laserpitium krapfii						P			X			
P		Laserpitium siler						R			X			
I		Leiobunum rumelicum						P			X			
I		Lepthyphantes centromeroides						P				X		
M		Lepus europaeus						C					X	
F		Leuciscus cephalus						C						X
P		Lilium jankae						V				X		
P		Lilium martagon						C						X

Middle-Triassic, Jurassic, and partially Cretaceous limestones. Limestones are dominant. The park's characteristic limestone karst is the richest cave region in Bulgaria. Over 500 caves and precipices are located here. They are unique because of their beauty and cave-dwelling organisms.

4.2 Quality and importance

Biological diversity in the territory of the Nature Park "Vratchansky Balkan" (NPVB) Flora and vegetation The characteristic feature of the vegetation cover of the NPVB examined from a phytocenological point of view is the participation in it of 78 arboreal-shrub and 36 grass associations and groupings. Some of them are not familiar to pertinent literature, others are rare, still others show deviations from those described in other regions and of course there are such as can be found in other environments. Unknown or rare are the associations of *Acer monspessulanum*, *Juglans regia*, *Syringa vulgaris*, *Juniperus sabina*, *Stipa calamagrostis*, *Centhranthus kellereri*, *Silene alpina* and number of others. The two distinct belts are that of the oak and that of the beech. The oak belt reaches between 700 and 1100 m above the sea level, while the beech belt reaches almost up to the highest points of the park. Somewhat different from the vegetation of the two belts is the position of the widespread rock and scree vegetation of the Vratchansky Balkan. There are three main classification units that can be distinguished in the composition of the park. They are designed as Ecosystem of Oak Suite Formations, Ecosystem of Beech Suite Formations and Ecosystem of Pine Suite Formations. The result of researches determined 99 families, 430 genera and 983 species of vascular plants. They are 66,9 % from the families in Bulgaria, 48,4 % from the genera and 22,5 % from the species diversity in the country. The Nature Park has a high conservation value. In the park are preserved the populations of 5 Bulgarian endemites and 20 Balkan endemites. In the floral composition of VBNP are 48 rare and 8 threatened taxa listed in Red Data Book of Bulgaria. 5 species are included in the European List of Threatened and Rare plants. Included in Appendix 3 of the Act for the Protection of Biological Diversity are 35 species. Protected by the Act of Medicinal Plants (2000) are 363 of the species in the park or 50 % of all medicinal plants in Bulgaria. With international protected mature status are 30 species of vascular plants. Fauna In the territory of Vratchansky Balkan at the moment are established 116 species of birds, of which 19 are included in the Red Data Book of Bulgaria, and 62 species have European protected nature designation. Three biome boundaries species meet here - *Prunella collaris* and *Pyrrhocorax graculus* - typical for the Alpine zone and *Alectoris graeca* - for Mediterranean zone. Vratchansky Balkan is an important nesting place for 29 species of birds, of which 19 species have a dense population. From 216 established species of vertebrates, 25 species are included in the Red Data Book. Vratchansky Balkan has a great meaning for the preservation of cave fauna. Here at the moment are established 191 species of troglodytes, a large portion of them are local endemites. 19 of 29 species of bats in Bulgarian can be found here. Restoration of additional 2.3 ha of habitat type 91E0 along Iskar river done by project "Riparian Habitats in BG - Conservation and Restoration of 11 Natura 2000 Riparian and Wetland Habitats in 10 SCI's Bulgarian Forests", LIFE08 NAT/BG/000281

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
H	J02.05.02		o
L	D02.01		o
L	A03		i
M	A07		o
L	B01.02		i
L	A10.01		o
L	A04		b
M	C01.07		i
M	E01		o
L	D01.01		o
L	K01.01		i
L	E03		o
L	G01.05		i
M	J02.05.02		i
L	F03.01		i
M	E01.03		i
L	E03.01		i
L	G01.04		i
L	C01.01.01		b
L	F06		i
M	D01.01		i
L	D01.04		b

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside /outside [i o b]
L	F06		i
L	B		i
L	B01.02		i
L	F03.01		i
L	A04		i
M	C01.07		i
L	A03		i
L	A05.01		o

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low

Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,

T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions

i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.4 Ownership (optional)

4.5 Documentation

Initial proposal and description of the site made by the Administration of Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park - eng. Daniela Borisova / Vratsa, str Ivanka Boteva 1, P.O. Box 241, tel.fax +359 (0)92 665 473, tel. +359 (0)92 665 849 / vrachanskybalkan@abv.bg; www.bg-parks.net; St. Beshkov - NMNH. Initially listed publications: 1. Georgiev, V., V. Beshkovski, M Josifov, K.Kumanski, B.Rusev, November, 1993 , Nacionalna strategija za opazvane na biologichnoto raznoobrazie. Osnovni dokladi, Insecta part ², pages 245-322;2.Hubenov, Z., S.Beshkov., V. Beshkovski, E.Vasileva, I. Kolarov, K.Kumansky, November, 1993 , Nacionalna strategija za opazvane na biologichnoto raznoobrazie.Osnovni dokladi., Insecta part ²², pages 323-404;3. Institut po Botanika, Institut po zoologia, Otchet po dogovor "Savremenno sastoianie na florata i faunata na Naroden park "Vrachansky Balkan", December,1995 ã.4. "Agrolesproekt"EOD, Sofia, 1995. Nature park "Vrachansky Balkan". Sofiiska oblast, oblast Montana. Parkoustroistven proekt. Komitet po gorite, S..5. Velchev. V. 1971. "Rastitelna pkrivka na Vrachanska planina". BAN, S.6. Nankinov, D., S.Simeonov, T. Michev.1991, B. Ivanov.1997.Fauna na Bulgaria Tom.26.Aves part ²²".Al "Prof.Marin Drinov" i "Pensoft".S.7. Simeonov, S., T. Michev.1991."Pticite na Balkanskia poluoostrov. Polevi opredelitel.". DFI "Petar Beron".S.8. Simeonov, S., T. Michev, D. Nankinov.1990. "Fauna na Bulgaria. Õ.20. Aves. xàñð ² " izd. BAN. S.9.Konspekt na Vishata flora na Bulgaria, 2002;.10. Flora na NR Bulgaria ²-Õ tom, pod redakciata na Velchev V., S. Kojuharov, B. Kuzmanov, izd. Ban, Sofia, 1995; 11.Delchev ,H., S.Andreev, G. Blagoev, V. Goevanski, D. Dobrev, G. Miloikova, November, 1993., Nacionalna strategija za opazvane na biologichnoto raznoobrazie. Bezgabnachni jivotni/bez Insecta/(Protozoa, Nematoda, Oligochaeta, Mollusca, Crustaceae, Myriapoda, Araneae, Acari), pages. 149-232;Data revised by a team of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (<http://www.bas.bg>). New data provided by project "Mapping and assessment of the conservation status of the natural habitats and species - Phase 1" (see link).

Link(s): <http://natura2000.moew.government.bg/Home/ProtectedSite?code=BG0000166&siteType=HabitatDirective>

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

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Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
BG05	85.0	BG03	2.500366305165339	BG06	0.8056143394694943
BG00	13.851288468895945	BG01	4.0485275388838495		

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

Type code	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
BG03	Ledenika	+	0.19163987127335969
BG03	Ritlite	+	0.2842433475416486
BG05	Vrachanski balkan	+	85.0
BG06	Vezhdata	+	0.24074353869864137
BG03	Temnata dupka	+	
BG03	Vratzata	+	0.014969700584265078
BG06	Borov kamak	+	0.09401404348570432
BG03	Rashkov dol	+	1.0
BG06	Vola	+	0.431472571688463
BG01	Vrachanski karst	+	4.0485275388838495
BG03	Novata peshtera	+	0.009513385766065507
BG06	Lakatnishki skali	+	0.03938418559668571
BG03	Kolchakovetz	+	1.0

designated at international level:

Type	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
Other	Vrachanski Balkan	+	100.0

5.3 Site designation (optional)

The site includes - Vrachansky Balkan - the second largest park in Bulgaria. It was founded in 1989 and declared as Nature Park of international importance in 1997. Its mission: to preserve biodiversity and the beauty of nature, to preserve cultural and historical heritage and to assure the recreation of tourist and locals. The park territory covers 28 844,8 ha - 20 733,4 ha of those are forest areas and 8 111,4 ha are agricultural areas. The park represents most of the Vratsa mountains and the massif of Lakatnik`s rocks. In the frame of this Park 1 453,1 ha are protected as a Strict Reserve "Vrachansky Karst" with 477 ha buffer zone. It's a classical example of a karst region with very interesting rock formations, and Vratsata, the highest vertical limestone walls (over 400 m) on the Balkan Peninsula and in Europe at this elevation; this is a popular climbing region with 116 labeled routes. The park`s characteristic limestone karst is the richest cave region in Bulgaria. Over 500 caves and precipices are located here. They are unique because of their beauty and cave-dwelling organisms.

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

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Organisation:	Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water: Vratsa, Montana, Sofia; Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park Directorate
Address:	
Email:	

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Name: Management Plan for Vrachanski Balkan Nature Park, adopted by Council of Ministers Decision No. 750/14. 10.2011 (promulgated SG 82/2011). Link: https://www.moew.government.bg/wp-content/uploads/filebase/Nature/Protected_areas/0_Sadarjanie.pdf
<input type="checkbox"/> No, but in preparation	
<input type="checkbox"/> No	

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

Park construction project - Nature Park "Vrachansky Balkan," phase: Technical project - Topographical maps of the region in M 1:25 000 and 1:10 000. The characteristics and objects and adjoining territories are based on these. - Forest construction projects and maps of forestry enterprises included in the territory of Nature Park Vrachansky Balkan and its contact zones. - Cadastre plans of farming/cultivated lands in M 1:5000 and M 1:10 000. - Plans for land division/parcelling in M 1:5000 and M 1:10 000. Established map basis of the cultivation fund is based on the plans for the land division/parcelling and cadastre plans of the territory. Tourist maps and schemes - Tourist routes are designated based on those marked and affirmed from historically used tourist maps.

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID:

Map delivered as PDF in electronic format (optional)

Yes No

Reference(s) to the original map used for the digitalisation of the electronic boundaries (optional).